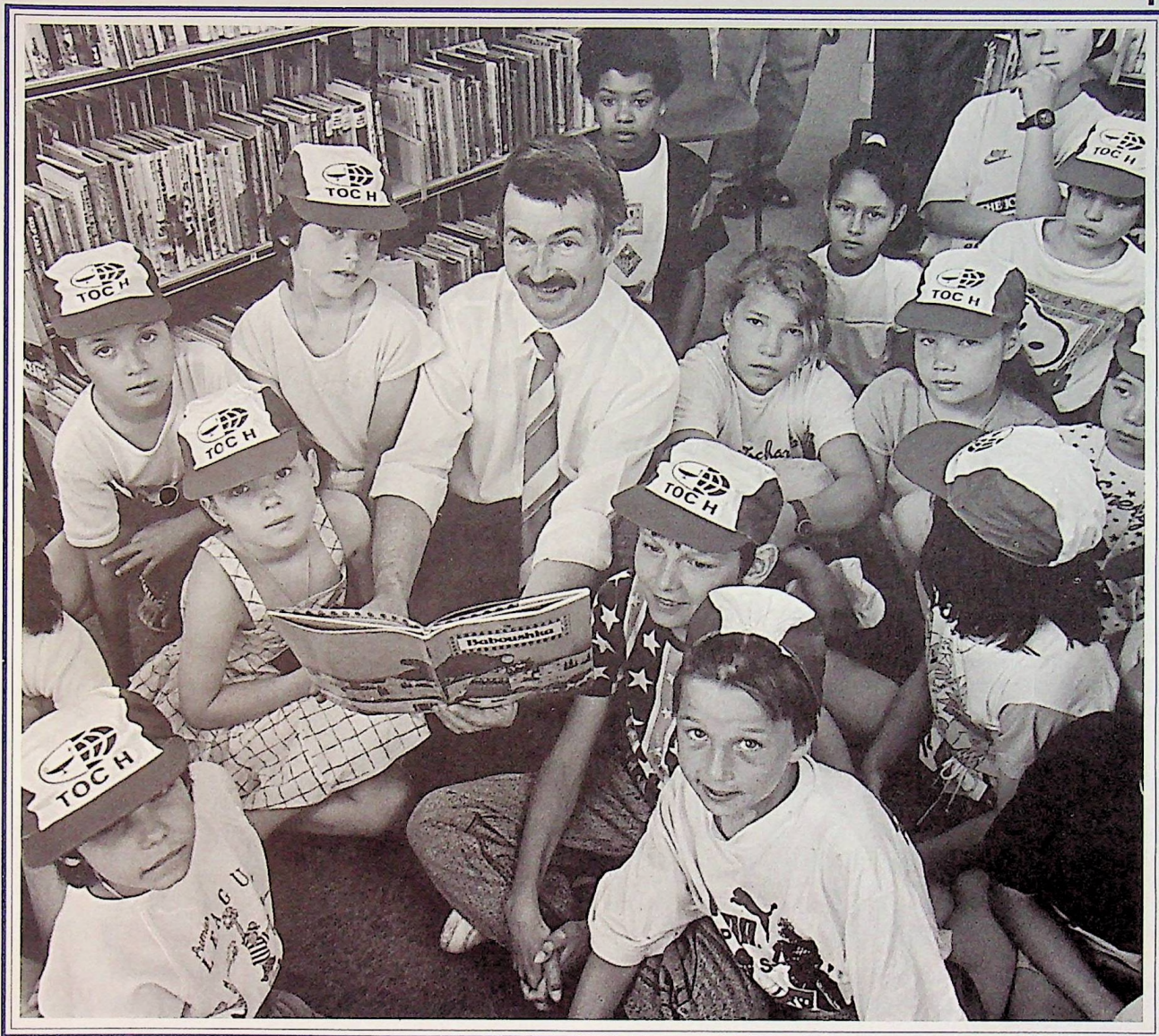


SEPTEMBER 1992

# Point three

PRICE 30p



In this issue:


**Projects with Prisoners • Australian/Bengali Project  
People Matter • A Day Out for 50 Russian Orphans  
Chaplain's Diary • Branch News • Your Letters**

The magazine of





## Point three

the magazine of  **TOC H**

Toc H is a movement of people who seek to build friendships, and offer service, across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is a group - at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood - which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it. Toc H was founded in 1915 by the Revd P B 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

All members pledge themselves to try:

1. To welcome all in friendship and lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the prejudices which separate people.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while listening with respect to the views of others.
4. To acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and to test the Christian way by trying it.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world as well as a record of Toc H service. Its title derives from the third of these Four Points.

## 'A Renewed Eagerness'

*The secret of Toc H is Fellowship. Not a fellowship content to dwindle and grow old as it sits round a sinking fire, but one kept young with a renewed eagerness and resolve by those who fall in - faster, we hope, than the tired men fall out - as it marches along the road . . .*

Have you ever seen someone release a bird and watch it soar with joy into the sky? One of the most satisfying experiences available to a human being is to see those you have nurtured spread their wings and develop their potential.

Some of the most bitter and disappointed people are those who have never been encouraged to fulfil their potential. They are incomplete. This seems especially true with creative people. Instead of being treated with caution, they need to be asked, 'How far can you travel? How high can you go?' Without the tools to explore their own creativity they become depressed and, in my experience, they seem to have an almost insatiable need for encouragement and support.

There is such scope to be creative within Toc H. I want to be able to wave a wand and say, 'Go on! Do it! FLY!' One of the reasons we have been on a spiral decline may be due to the fact that there are now so few risk-takers in the Movement. Is it fear of the unknown, or simply a lack of vision that stops us from saying, 'Yes. Risk it'? Or maybe it is an unwillingness to accept change? And it isn't just Toc H that is suffering from this malaise, it seems to be a national disease.

When you are lucky enough to work with someone with energy and vision, it adds enormously to job satisfaction. Ian Pearce, our Fundraiser, and I have found it an inspiring experience to be the back-up to Chris Williams and her Cannock Chase project. She had to face daunting opposition and was accused of being wildly ambitious in attempting a five-year project of Nature Trails for the disabled. When she explained that it would cost £100,000, some people were

apoplectic. But it couldn't fail; because she has a strong character, coupled with courage and determination, and speaks passionately about wanting to help put Toc H back on the map through publicity for a project that captures both the imagination and is environmentally appealing.

The formula she used has been successfully applied throughout Toc H's history. And Chris is the first to point out that there have been people like her throughout that history. It has helped us in pioneering work with blood donors, in rescuing BELRA, in hospital broadcasting.... It is the simple idea of getting people involved by saying, 'Will you give us a hand?' And she has Vision. People recognise that quality and the undiluted energy that goes with it, and are captivated by it.

But few visionaries can go it alone. The more reassurance and encouragement you give them, the more dynamic they become. Toc H needs just such energy and enthusiasm by the bucketful. As a Movement we are often complacent and have a tendency to pat ourselves on the backs for breaking down barriers and practising hands-on Christianity, when in reality there is often a noticeable lack of charity about, a distinct absence of Christian values. Negative and bigoted feelings block the energy of those creatures who need to fly, to soar into the air and inspire the rest of us. I do not like to see those people in cages, however seductive and gilded we make them appear in order to salve our consciences.

Ruth Boyd

*... The aim of Toc H is to strike at the furthest link in this chain of human disaster, for, the chain once broken, the prisoner is free to praise God instead of wasting breath in cursing his brother, and to serve the world with gladness in place of clumsily destroying it. Fear and Hate are twin children of darkness and nothing - to use a familiar form of words - but perfect Love casteth out Fear.*

Barclay Baron

**Editor:** Ruth Boyd

**Editorial Assistant:** Thomas Hill Long

**Cover:** Librarian Derek Jowett reads a Russian fairy tale to the children.

**Photo:** Reproduced by kind permission of the Gloucester 'Citizen'. See article on page 4 and 5.



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Letters, articles and news items are welcomed and should be addressed to The Editor, *Point three*, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6RT. Tel: 0296 623911. Fax: 0296 696137.

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H movement.

*Point three* is available from Toc H Headquarters. Price: 30p per copy or £3.60 per year's subscription. Any contribution towards the high cost of postage will be gratefully accepted.

### BRANCH NEWS

We would like to receive more news from branches about their work in the community, such as individual projects.



# Chaplain's Diary

## SATURDAY:

Our first day back from holiday. With the vivid sights of the Welsh mountains and sea still clear in my mind, I drive off to Birmingham for the CEC meeting. The last three weeks have been a haven of peace and tranquillity. Elizabeth and I lazed in our rented farmhouse reading, watching the farmer haymaking, and doing nothing more taxing than giving directions to lost walkers and making an occasional foray into the nearby village for essential supplies.

The motorways and the city centre of Birmingham are a shock to the system after the single-track lanes of Ardudwy. The CEC meeting wakes me up to the continuing issues of Toc H. It always surprises me that the rest of life has continued at its frenetic pace while I have been lost in the mountains. I always expect the rest of the world to stand still when I do. The rest of life should have had the 'pause' button pressed while I was away, waiting for me to take my place again and then press the 'play' button when I am ready.

Instead, life has moved on. Things have happened. The grass has grown long, the shrubs are overgrown. People are not what they were. And Toc H along with the rest of life has grown another three weeks.

## WEDNESDAY:

Amidst the pile of paperwork and information to catch up on, there is a Reflection Day. A chance for a group of staff to take time to think and talk together about their experiences. We look at slides and listen to music.

I am reminded of the story of a group of African natives who are being taken by bus from their own village to work some distance away. After driving for a while, they demand that the driver stops the bus. They all climb out and lie on the ground. In response to the driver's question, they reply that they are travelling too fast and must stop to let their souls catch up with them.

The Reflection Day proves to be a time when people can relax and reconnect with the 'eternal realities'.

## MONDAY:

Adrian helped me to move the piano (Elizabeth and I decided suddenly to rearrange the furniture). Now I am paying the price - to the osteopath. This is not the way I would have chosen to slow down.



## WEDNESDAY:

An evening drive to Heathrow Airport. Adrian and Anne Dudman are off to Zimbabwe to visit their daughter and her husband, who are working as teachers with Voluntary Service Overseas. Their nearest well (seven miles away) has just dried up. Adrian will also carry the greetings of Toc H UK to the remaining branches in Harare and Zimbabwe when he visits them.

## SATURDAY:

I have just taken a wedding at a nearby church (their new vicar doesn't arrive until next month). I wonder how many other clergy have stood on that same step conducting weddings? Afterwards the churchwarden took me down into the ninth-century Saxon crypt. Semi-circular grills let in the sunshine. The ancient brickwork and vaulting pillars create a place of great tranquillity. It is covered in dust and cobwebs now, but that doesn't conceal the beauty or the mystery. I wonder what magic would be created by the celebration of a simple communion here?

Time is a strange experience. There are many things which, in the silence, can be discovered to be timeless: the mountains of Wales, the business of living relationships, the weakness of human beings, the power of nature, the atmosphere of prayer. My own life is bounded by time, yet not limited by it. Is this another of those 'eternal realities'?

Alan Johnson  
National Chaplain ■



# A Day Out for 50 Russian Orphans

In Russia children can be classified as orphans for several reasons: the death of one or both of the parents; the inability, due to mental illness or alcoholism, of the parents to care for their children; or illegitimacy. Since fostering and adoption are virtually unknown, there are tens of thousands of orphans living in deplorable conditions.

About a year ago, Baroness Cox, an authority on nursing and education, visited Russia to observe the conditions in which orphans live. She found that some children were unjustifiably classified as retarded and kept in mental institutions. (The children who recently visited Britain were, in fact, above average intelligence.)

In March, Chris Williams, who chairs the West Midlands and South Wales Region Committee, wrote to five Toc H branches which are almost equidistant from Malvern. She informed us that, from 1 April, 50 Russian orphans would be staying in Britain for about three months, and she challenged us to 'do something' for the children.

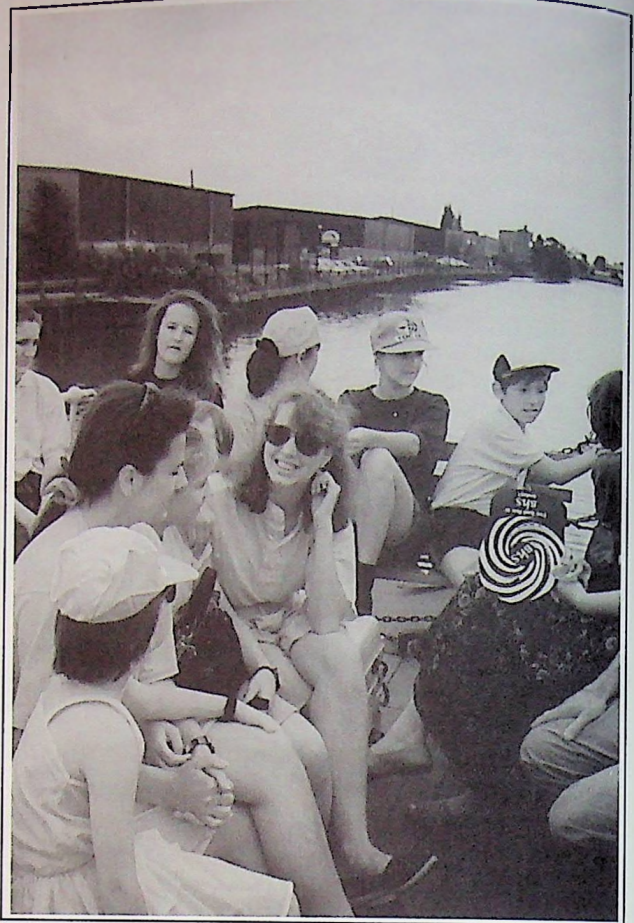


*The children couldn't wait - they picnicked in the car park*

Their visit had been funded by an independent foundation run by the dissident Russian composer Yuri Sherling, with co-operation from British organisations which included the Hedley Roberts Trust, the World Youth Music Foundation, Service Clubs, the Downs School and other local schools, and the Wells House School at Malvern Wells where the orphans would be staying.

Despite the high average age of Gloucester Branch - we do not 'buck the trend', unfortunately - and the fact that we had long ago concluded we were not able to do communal jobs or, in modern parlance, projects, we accepted Chris's challenge.

It was heartening to see the enthusiasm with which the branch responded. Our first decision was that funding would not be a constraint - we *would* find the



*Boat trip on the canal. Russian children in the foreground, girls from local school in background*

money. Small is beautiful, especially when applied to committees, so, secondly, we formed a committee of three to organise the job.

Having fixed a date for the proposed 'Day Out', we called on Tim Alexander, the Manager of the School, to discuss the programme. By this time, the children had been here for several weeks, so Tim was able to provide useful background information. It was sad to learn that in Russia they were given no choice regarding food, clothes or even their activities. They had no possessions, and a typical meal was bread and soup. It was clear that, whatever we did for the children, it would be something they had never experienced before. Because of this, the programme was easy to arrange and was set for Monday, 15 June.

We arrived in Gloucester by coach at 10 am and assembled in the Toc H meeting place. The children were given baseball caps with the Toc H logo and then divided into two groups. While one group went shopping at British Home Stores, the other went to the library, where they enjoyed a Russian story which was read to them in English with a simultaneous Russian translation. The groups changed over after about 40 minutes.



A free lunch was provided at McDonald's, thanks to the generosity of the manager, to whom we are greatly indebted.

After lunch the children were taken for a boat trip on the canal at Gloucester Docks, after which they returned to the Toc H rooms for refreshments, to watch a video and to collect their individual picnic teas. We then travelled by coach to Robinswood Hill Country Park for the picnic, a guided walk and an exercise in identifying predators and prey conducted by Sarah Rowlett of the Wildlife Trust.

We said our somewhat emotional farewells to the children as they returned to the school at 6.30.

We had been with the children for over eight hours. They were well behaved, generous, happy, alert and altogether delightful. It was a pleasure to be with them and to see how much they enjoyed the events of a 'Day Out'.

We made a video of some of these and when we watch it now, mindful of the conditions to which the children returned on 28 June, it is very moving to hear them, in their slightly accented voices, chorusing their 'Thank You' to the staffs of British Home Stores, the library, McDonald's and to Toc H.

Our association with the children did not end on 15 June. Carolyn Alexander, leader of the party, told us that the children had come here with practically nothing. During their stay, they had accumulated numerous items, such as clothes, shoes and toilet articles, and would need suitcases to pack them in for the return journey. We spread the word by speaking to friends and appealing on local radio. On 26 June, two



*Some of the children assembling for a guided walk*



*Choosing a site for their picnic*

days before the children were due to leave, we were able to deliver about 60 items of luggage to the school.

In addition to the generosity shown by McDonald's, the managers of British Home Stores and Boots (from whom we had bought a toilet article for each child) very kindly added several freebie items to each purchase.

Although we had applied for back-up funds from the District and Region (Willenhall Trust), it now appears that we shall not have to use the money because the other branches originally contacted by Chris Williams volunteered to assist with funding the project. This support was much appreciated and the enthusiastic manner in which it was offered is, we think, typical of Toc H. Thus what started out as a Gloucester Branch effort ended as an effort organised by Gloucester Branch and generously supported by Alvechurch, Leominster and Wyre Forest Branches.

We are sure the children enjoyed themselves and we hope the Day Out was as happy and memorable an occasion for them as it was for us.



*Dr. Luba Vasilova marshalls the children*

**Donald Norcross**  
Secretary Gloucester Branch ■



# An Australian/ Bengali Project at Mundesley, Norfolk

Nathan Staines, from Toc H Australia, joined us for 18 months as a Long Term Volunteer based at the Toc H centre at Newark Street, Whitechapel, London. He left the staff in June and is now working on projects in the USA. He has a vital and infectious enthusiasm and puts considerable energy into his work. He wrote the following report about one of the highlights of his time in the UK.

I had been involved in a number of day outings with Bengali children - taking them on swimming trips and adventures in the forest - and worked in close collaboration with Derek Cox, from the Youth Agency, Avenues Unlimited. I wanted to do more concentrated work with the children, and Derek and I worked together on a weekend project based at Mundesley, Norfolk.

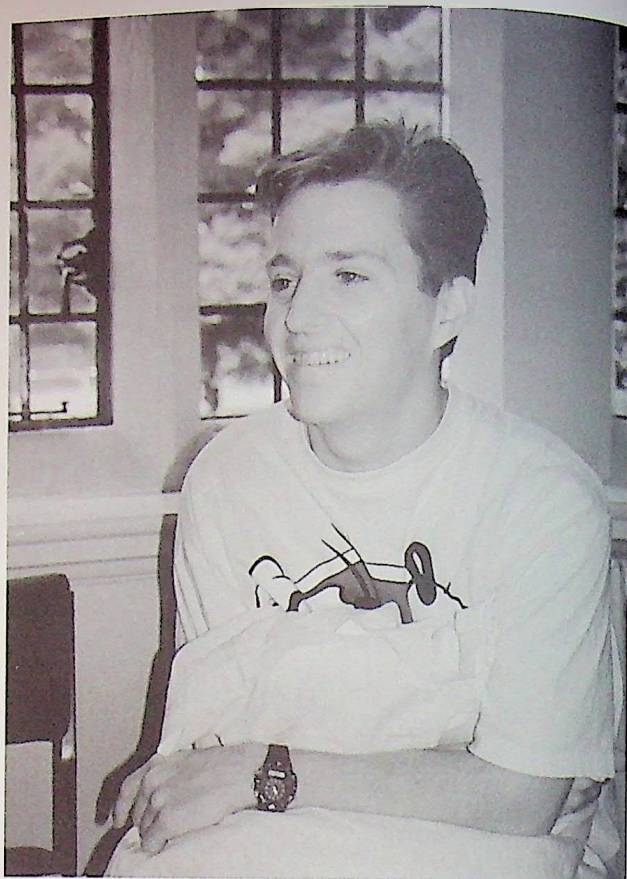
There were three main groups of children and it was a tough decision choosing which group we'd take. In the end the choice was the first group I'd met - I knew these boys better than any others. Having made that decision, I then set about writing off to grant-making trusts. There was no positive response.



*Babor, Rohan, Liton, Derek, Rofiqul*

Then, over a meal with the Newark Street residents, we decided on a sponsored Toc H walk to raise the necessary funds. It was the first piece of 'outreach' work the house had undertaken for some time, and there was a lot of enthusiasm. We were joined by Ian and Charlotte, from the Winant Clayton Volunteers, and Charlotte's family.

I had contacted 11 branches of Toc H asking for support and got terrific support from five. The money came in. We were all set to go, and then a week before departure the boys decided that they wouldn't go. Their gang 'leader' was away in Bangladesh and we thought this must be the reason. We eventually got 11 children together, aged from 10 to 14, with Derek and me as leaders. The third volunteer had dropped out, but we were confident about managing and after all the work so far we weren't about to drop the project.



*Nathan*

The fateful day arrived. Development Officer John Burgess left for Mundesley with the boys' luggage, and Derek and I waited for the boys to finish school. Only 10 boys turned up, but we weren't panicking!

We arrived at Mundesley at about 10.30 pm, having stopped at Norwich for a meal. The first thing the boys did was to pick out their bunks and try to hide their cigarettes from us. I took one boy, Liton, to a window and pointed to the different lights on the ships as they made their way up and down the coast. He refused to believe they were real. It reminded me forcefully of the lifestyle these kids led.

We then went for a walk on the beach. It was amazing to discover that, for all their brashness and outgoing natures, these boys were scared of the dark. They stuck very closely to the few with torches. A few of the older boys held back behind us, trying to smoke without our noticing. We soon put that right. Much of the night was spent playing hide and seek in the house. I got fed up with continually being 'it' - not able to find anyone in the total darkness. Some of the younger ones couldn't sleep - they thought there were ghosts in the house.

On the first day we went shopping in the morning and cycling in the afternoon. We had to limit the distance



in order to support the younger boys, which wasn't popular with the older ones. Peace was restored by their mirth at my falling gracefully off my bike while trying to overtake. We spent the evening playing dodge the waves on the beach. When a huge wall of water finished the entertainment by dowsing them, it was my turn to laugh.

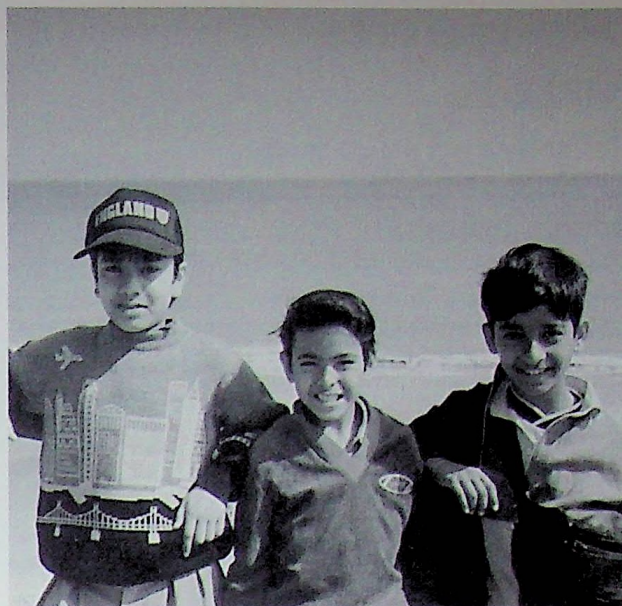
On Sunday we visited the American-style theme park called Pleasurewood Hills in nearby Suffolk. Everyone shivered with cold after the Water-Ride and Liton felt queasy after his trip on the Pirate Ship. They were having a wonderful time - most of them had never been on a carnival ride, let alone visited a theme park. And I was the one lucky enough to share their experiences.

The last day was blistering hot (by English standards!) and we took lots of photos as we lazed around the village of Mundesley. New friendships had been made. Throughout the weekend the different backgrounds



*Liton, Kibria, Ronan*

of the boys were apparent and they formed two fairly definite groups who had little to do with each other. We had trouble with the would-be smokers and with one group stealing from the local gift shop. But, despite this rather negative aspect, they all seemed very grateful at having had the opportunity of getting away from London, and nobody wanted to go home. Nor did I. The boys were full of life and affection, in their own ways. And when I visited them afterwards,



*Ronan, Liton, Babor*

we always talked about the great time we had all had. So, my personal thanks goes to all those people who made this weekend possible. The boys will remember it for a long, long time.

As you read this, I have moved on, working as a counsellor in a summer camp in Massachusetts. While America is going to be a very worthwhile and exciting time in my life, I think a piece of me will always stay with the boys in the East End. They have been an incredible influence on me and on the way I look at life. I have been told by many that they don't want me to go, and that makes my leaving all the more difficult.



*Ronan, Babor, Nathan, Liton, Rofiqul*

They are able to laugh and play among the filth and litter of London's East End. It indicates the sort of people they will eventually grow up to be. I would like to have been there to see that! ■



# Projects with Prisoners

Development Officer, Norah Anderson, is part of the Cleveland staff team and is largely responsible for developing Toc H work with young offenders. She has been involved with Deerbolt Young Offender Institution for four years and with Lancaster Prison for one year. Norah sent us the following summary of her work:

1992 has been a busy year and, at the time of this magazine going to press in August, 24 bookings have been made for Deerbolt offenders to go on projects and 19 at Lancaster Prison.

Toc H is now one of the main agencies working with Deerbolt because of the variety of the voluntary work our projects involve, our continuous programme throughout the year, and our willingness to adapt our work to include the young offender. Since we started the placements at Deerbolt, we have had 125 and many more are planned for the coming months. Results so far suggest that this work is of great benefit to those involved.

Lancaster Prison was the first adult prison to become involved in the project programme, so the summer of 1991 was quite a breakthrough. We ran an experimental five placements, ranging from a weekend in a Cheshire Home to a two-week playscheme. The results were very encouraging. The prisoners, being older, appreciated the chance they had been given and wanted to do their best. Being trusted to do some voluntary work that they would never normally have considered, and gaining personally from helping people, added to a growth of confidence and experience. It is difficult to describe the feeling of reward when a difficult child smiles - they experienced it first hand. And there was the opportunity to work as



Anne and Simon are on the top row.



The Cleveland staff team: Norah Anderson (front left) with Jacqui Barr, Marilyn Surtees, Revd David Mayhew and John Dumwell.

a group with people from a variety of backgrounds; they were forced to relate to people from society with which they have little in common, and yet found that they could understand each other and become friends.

From this beginning, placements have continued on a wide range of projects, from South Wales to Hertfordshire and North Yorkshire. It is rewarding to hear of all the friendships that continue afterwards. One of the first people to go on a Toc H project last summer is now going on the same project a year later, after he has been out of prison for nine months.

Recently I talked with some of the inmates, and readers might like to read their comments:

'Deep down in my life I feel I have found something that I really want to do'. Bernard - July 1992

'I myself really enjoyed every minute. It also opened my eyes to see there are more worthwhile things to do than to break the law'. John - February 1992

'I have a lot to be thankful for. So I do my utmost to do something back and I give my all'. James - July 1992

And Anne Puddicombe, Chairman North East Region, writes:

With substantial funds available, £600 from Children in Need and £800 from Brighouse Round Table, it was decided to run two weekends at Colsterdale for children who needed a break.

One of the best things to come out of the weekends was that we met Simon, an inmate of Deerbolt Young Offender Institution in County Durham. Simon proved himself to be a really worthwhile volunteer; we were so impressed with his performance during the first weekend that we asked for him back for the second. This was a trying weekend, but Simon more than passed the test in showing real leadership qualities. Contact has been maintained with Simon and he was a volunteer on the Practical Prevention



Project. I thought readers might like to share the following excerpts from his letters:

*Dear Anne,*

Hope you are alright. I would just like to say thanks for the weekend. I know I could come to you and the rest of the people I met and talk if ever I needed to, or even as a friend, which I'm sure will happen sooner or later. I would just like to say you are all great people with great hearts and even though I've only seen you for a weekend I think of you as close friends.

Anne, you asked me to write and tell you my thoughts of the weekend and of Toc H. Well, I've read the leaflets you gave me, as best I could because my reading and spelling are not that good. I feel Toc H is a great thing where people meet other people and get to know them - while giving children and handicapped people a chance to enjoy themselves, and their families a well earned break. But I am sure there's a lot more behind it and I hope to learn more in the future, whether I am inside or out.

Give my best to all and I hope to hear from you soon. God Bless and good luck in the near future. *Simon*

*Dear Anne*

Hope you are alright. Hope you've got over your weekend. I know it took a bit of getting through, but we made it. I think a lot of other people would give up before we would. At least we can say we made it

through. I think it turned out pretty well in the end - considering how they were at the start, we did well. I would like to thank you once again for an unforgettable weekend. I've said it once, and I'll say it again, you are all great people. It takes some doing to do the things you do and I am very proud to take part in it.

Well didn't we have a laugh! I can't wait to see the other photos we took, I'll have a good laugh at them. By the way when are you doing it again, or should I say when are you putting your foot in it again?

Well I hope to hear from you soon. I've just got back and I thought it best to write now as I will be asleep for the next week.

Take care and thanks again.

*Simon*

*Dear Anne*

Got the photos today. They're great - bringing back all the good times we all had and I would just like to say Anne, if it wasn't for you I would never of met such amazing people or enjoyed myself so much. It's been a long time since I did enjoy myself like that even when I was out and I can't thank you enough and I won't forget you for it...I would be grateful if you could get me on the next one. I think I could help there, maybe have a good talk about how people get through a place like this and what they're like... .

*All my best Simon*

## LETTERS

### The Toc H Prayer

In a recent issue of *Point three* the continuing validity of using Our Lord's name in the Toc H prayer was raised.

I would like to remind readers of the following verse:

There is only One Light that can guide us safely through life.  
There is only One Figure we can rely upon for support.  
There is only One Food that can sustain our souls.  
There is only One Life that can set our hearts at liberty.  
There is only One Heart that can bear our sorrows.  
There is only One Hand that can wipe away our tears.  
There is only One Atonement that can take away our sins.  
There is only One Name whereby all men may be saved.  
Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever.

The verse is by Philip Clayton and bears all the tragic sorrow and horror of those men whose eyes witnessed a great holocaust, even worse than the Jews of the last war.

Toc H is based on that experience made bearable by the comradeship and hope of a small chapel in Ieper. The Movement will never be able to remove that fact, and it can never hope to survive if it removes the name of Christ from its prayers.

*Colin Gibbs, Wrexham*

### Yeti Weekend and Membership

Mr Sobey writes (August *Point three*) that he doubts whether our membership will be increased as a result of the Yeti Weekend in Birmingham at the beginning of September.

I would like to point out that the weekend is not just a fun event and that the Yeti hunt is only a very small part of the proceedings. We are aiming the weekend at people who have had some involvement with Toc H, whether it be project volunteers or new branch members, to help them find out more of what Toc H does in their home location and to get them further involved. Only then can membership be discussed. Membership can only be undertaken when people feel able to join and make the commitment. Involvement with Toc H is not a case of signing on the dotted line - that is not what we are about.

I think the weekend will broaden the knowledge of Toc H and what it does, in and around Birmingham.

*Jacqui Lane  
Beckenham, Kent*



# People Matter

I have just come back from a visit to our project on Cannock Chase. It is hard to believe only four months have passed since we began. So much has happened and been achieved during this time.

Enid drove the car off the main road onto the Chase and into the car park where our trails begin. The stillness and the beauty soothed away the pressures which organising a venture of this size brings. I forgot the numerous letters still to write, phone calls not yet made, volunteers still to be contacted and meetings with prospective sponsors still to come.

We walked along the trail now being built. The rough uneven surface, which will eventually be firm, smooth, reinforced grass (covered with Netlon to prevent churning by wheelchairs), has been cut through bracken that now stands waist high. In front of us is the valley, but there is no clue that two or three hundred yards ahead is a steep drop. From where we are, the area has the appearance of a vast, more or less flat expanse of heath with clumps of trees or bushes here and there. Our path has come out of the bracken, cutting through white, pink and purple heather, with intermittent clumps of bilberry, cowberry and the chaseberry unique to Cannock Chase.

Straight ahead is a copse, but our path curves away from it to the left, and we are facing the main road. Apart from the slight hum of traffic only a short distance away, you might never know it was there. Hawthorn bushes and a variety of trees provide an effective screen. Through a mixture of flora our trail twists and turns until we enter a copse. Overhead, birds sing merrily, and we experience the feeling of being enclosed before emerging once more into the open heath. We hear people talking and laughing but can see no one. The path ends at a fire-break, which is just wide enough for a fire engine. The voices are louder, but there is still no visible sign of people. A few yards up, on the opposite side of the fire-break, we see the other section of our trail. We follow it through shrubs, trees and bushes winding down an incline. Behind us only the sky is visible. We can see none of the area we have been walking through.

As we skirt a huge bush our volunteers become visible, their perspiration - and dust-stained faces full of good humour, and comradeship is oozing from them. Their ages range from 17 to 77. Led by Sara and Michael and working under the guidance of Ken, our site manager, they were clearing the last few yards up to where the viewing platform will be on the lip of Brindley Valley.

At this point we looked across and down into God's wonderful creation. Deep down in the valley where our trails will eventually reach, a party of school-children were enjoying a nature study outing. Their strong young limbs and youthful energy cope easily with the rough steep existing paths. I felt a thrill in the knowledge that, thanks to Toc H, this pleasure will be available in the near future to those not so strong and agile.

I am more than ever convinced, as this scheme progresses, that we have a winner in more ways than one. For myself, every day brings a new challenge. As each stage is reached, preparations for the next must be ready. Publicity must be kept up in order to attract volunteers, and care taken to get a good mix in groups. Fundraising must continue and sponsorship must be sought. Keeping my finger on these things has helped me to grow personally. For those with special needs, the finished product will offer an experience of the countryside which will not be reliant on a helping hand.



*Simon Walding (Architect) and Chris Williams (Chairman, West Midlands and South Wales Region) proudly watch the first fruits of many months' careful planning!*

*Photo reproduced by kind permission of Chase Post.*





Councillor Mike Cooper hammers in the first peg, watched by (left to right) Simon Walding, Betty Jones, Brian Matthews, Yvette Braddock, Alan Whittaker, Nora, Bill and Lesley Whittaker.

Photo reproduced by kind permission of the Wolverhampton Express and Star.

The biggest winner will be Toc H, as the most important part is the people involved in the varied aspects of this project. Toc H is people for people, everything we do revolves around people. Our service is geared to meeting people. We do not work for people but with them. We exist to reach out and challenge people into helping us build a better world. We do this by our own example. Let your light so shine before men that they

can see your good works and glorify our Father. This challenge is given regularly as we take Light.

A bonus to our project is the wide mixture of people it has attracted. This has enhanced the experience for all involved. Even our steering committee has this mix. Our challenge now is to make these people our friends.

July's *Point three* had reports of friendship running right through it. We, of course, take for granted such reports in Toc H. Friendship, after all, is our first Compass Point. It is easy to make friends with like-minded people, but we in Toc H are challenged to build friendships with people from different backgrounds, viewpoints, cultures and religions. Recently a Toc H Development Officer who has had considerable success with street-wise youngsters, quoted a member as asking, 'Are these the type of people we want in Toc H?' Of course they are; along with the squeaky clean, intellectual, dunce, executive and labourer. By

achieving a wide mix, we gain a richer experience from our own membership. When Jesus chose His 12 special friends, He knew that in His limited time with them He must help them to understand each other despite their different backgrounds. In this way He ensured that the work He began continued after His ascension.

We must do likewise and strengthen the good thing thus begun in the tradition of our elder brethren by demonstrating that people matter whoever or whatever they are.

Chris Williams ■

## 'Democracy ain't that simple'

I was fascinated to read John Mitchell's article in the August *Point Three*.

Democracy is a subject very close to my heart. Being a person who likes to get my own way, I resent being led/guided/instructed. What really does get up my nose is people believing they know what is best for me.

But that's life.

As John wistfully reflects, in the real world there is no such thing as true democracy. I decided today to check my thesaurus to find alternative words for *democracy* and what did I find?

"current, dominant, extensive, fashionable, general, in vogue, popular, prevailing, prevalent, rampant, rife, sought after, well liked) widespread; autonomous, independent, self-governing"

I was confused, so I looked up my dictionary which defined democracy as 'a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people collectively and is administered by them or by officers elected by them'. It does also go on about recognition of equality of rights and privileges, which reminded me of Napoleon Pig's philosophy in *Animal Farm*. If my memory serves me right, he declared that 'all animals are equal — but some are more equal than others'.

Am I being cynical? I think not.

What I believe is that society depends upon structures and recognises that strength lies in union. Can you imagine what would happen if everyone in Britain governed independently?

The Sioux Nation was renowned for having not only free thinkers but for expecting each brave to act independently. The Sioux Nation was powerful for a while under one supreme chief but in the absence of structure it collapsed.

I believe that we do have freedom of thought and speech. We have the power to elect our government which administers for us. If enough of us didn't want the government we have then they would have been voted out of office.

The moral of the story is that we get what we [the majority] deserve and we have to put up with it until the next opportunity for bringing about change.

So I believe that we, the human race, cannot manage en masse without some form of structure and, collectively, we can exert some influence on how this governs our lives. We cannot expect to be totally independent and we have to give a mandate to enable others to govern. Change may be brought about by a groundswell of public opinion - and let's face it, if the majority believe in that change, it can be made to happen in our society - we are very lucky because it is not the case everywhere despite some countries being governed by so-called 'People's Parties'.

So where does this get us in Toc H?

We have a structure; if it is the wrong one, we can get on our hindlegs and change it - or we can do nothing, but if that is the course we take, we cannot blame anyone other than ourselves for our inertia.

Stewart Casimir, *Enskote*



## BRANCH NEWS



*Congratulations to Gerry (Hon Treasurer) and Betty Conibeer who recently celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary.*



*A party of 48 members and friends took part on 9 June in the annual summer outing of Melton and Charnwood District. Setting out into the beauty of Derbyshire, the group arrived at Bakewell for elevenses, followed by lunch at Castleton. They continued to explore the Peak District in the afternoon, in glorious sunshine, returning home through Robin Hood country and the byways of Nottinghamshire.*



*Chiltern Hills Branch chairman Nancy Kilburn and branch members John Kilburn (former General Secretary), Annette Burrows and her son David, braved tropical sunshine to man the Toc H stand at the RAF Halton air show on 27 June. RAF Halton is just down the road from Toc H Headquarters in Wendover.*

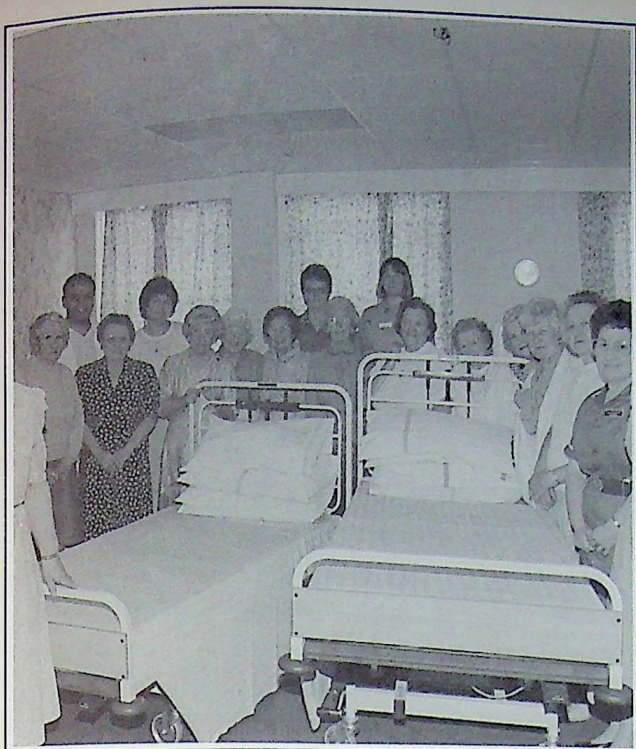


*Mr V Foy, Treasurer of Leigh Branch, hands over the keys of the old Toc H Centre to a member of the group who will be using the building under the new name, The Albert Tatum Centre. The branch, who reluctantly decided that they were unable to finance the considerable cost of bringing the building up to standard, nevertheless helped the new tenants with a donation and new fire doors. And they will continue as an active branch, meeting fortnightly as usual at the centre.*

Writing on behalf of all members of **Hartlepool Friendship Circle**, Mrs W Gyllenspetz wishes to thank Jacqui (the organiser) and Paul (the driver) for several lovely days out. Members had earlier all taken part in a fundraising event at a summer fayre.

**Barrow-on-Humber Branch** held its annual Jumble Sale recently. Over 5000 items, including not just the kitchen sink but the entire kitchen, were sold to raise more than £800, which the branch spent on a tea and reunion (including a coach tour) for senior citizens of the village. This year the branch celebrated its 60th birthday with a service of re-dedication and thanksgiving conducted by the padre, the Revd D George Evans. The chairman, Geoff Bell, welcomed guests, and the address was given by Director John Mitchell. A suitably inscribed clock has been presented by the branch to the John Harrison primary school to commemorate Toc H's 60 years in Barrow-on-Humber.



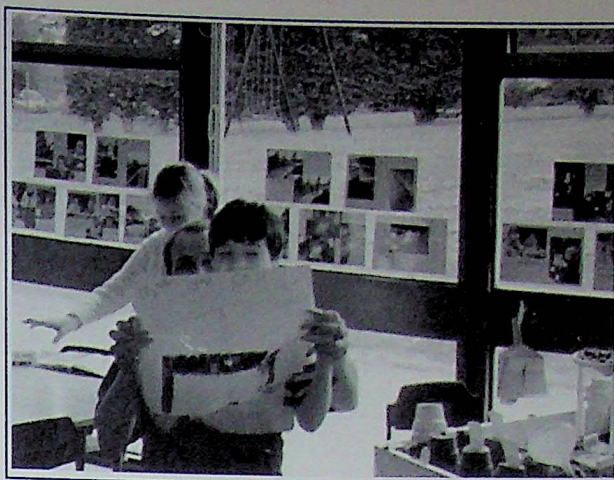


*Owton Manor Ladies Branch closed in July, the last of six branches in Hild District, Cleveland. The Toc H ladies have left an important memory of the Movement with the local general hospital by providing four rise-and-tilt beds, two for maternity and two for gynaecology wards. A small plaque is fitted to the top rail of each bed stating that it was purchased with the proceeds from the Toc H Trolley Shop, which the ladies ran on two afternoons a week for over 40 years.*



*Mrs Ethel Clark writes from **Coupar Angus** to tell readers that the branch has had a good year. Proceeds from a bingo tea and an auction enabled them to take 86 senior citizens for an outing. Though meetings are now held in a downstairs hall, the branch still have their own 'Loft', which was mentioned in a treasured letter from Tubby in 1958.*

The annual project, **Friends and Neighbours**, for 26 people at Alison House was 'the best ever', writes Rose Coates. There was a very good mixture of age and background - an 18 year old girl travelled on her own from Germany to take part and was very enthusiastic about the experience. One of the high spots was a Reminiscence Evening, and Rose borrowed lots of books from her local library to stir people's memories.



*Colwyn Bay Branch were quick off the mark when they heard that Ysgol-y-Graig school for severely disabled children had had their sandtray stolen. Member Harold Barnes quickly made a replacement and the branch stumped up the cost of the wood. The photo shows a 'thank-you' card from the children.*

Chris Stoneham and Laurie Tuckey, Central Councillors in the **South East Region**, thought it would be a good idea to visit some branches in the district. They have written a report of their visits entitled '**New Lamps For Old**':

Although the branches concerned are within reasonable distance of larger populations, they seem to be somewhat removed from the main stream of Toc H activities. We invited ourselves to **Grays Ladies**, where they gave us a very good welcome in true Toc H manner. None of the ladies, as they would be only too ready to admit, is a spring chicken, but this does not deter them from attending their meetings and other activities. We explained what was taking place in the new London District. They were very interested to learn that there are many openings where their talents and experience could be put to good use. Our discussions were very fruitful and engendered a new spirit and light.

Again [at **Bellfairs Branch, Southend**] we were made very welcome. The age group was very similar to Grays. During conversation we told them that we were looking for a venue for a project. ... Within two weeks they had made arrangements to visit a church in the locality with big meeting rooms which can be separated from the main church. They are very good indeed... Although these facilities are excellent, we decided not to run our main project there this year. However...a mini-project has recently been run by John Burgess and Co. for a weekend, taking some Bangladeshi boys and girls from the East End of London for a break, and another project has been arranged... These are just two examples of 'New Lamps For Old'.





As part of their 'Wish Project', **Buckingham Branch** arranged for Mrs Mary Warner to be given an aeroplane flight. She flew from Cranfield airfield with Phoenix Aviation and thoroughly enjoyed her first flying experience at the age of 75.



**Buckingham Branch** opened their new premises in Reynold's Yard, Buckingham on 26 July. About 50 Toc H members attended the Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication, including editor Ruth Boyd, staff development officer Jacqueline Bartlett and properties assistant Joan Matthews. The new premises, on two floors, are very pleasing and quite luxurious. Following the compulsory purchase of their former meeting rooms, the donation of new premises has proved a satisfactory outcome to what has been a difficult and unsettling time for this long-established branch.



**Birmingham Outward Group** had prepared themselves and their bus to fly the Toc H flag at the Kings Heath Carnival on 20 June when, to the great disappointment of everyone, the carnival had to be cancelled because of an explosion on the route. (This turned out to be a water meter exploding and blowing drain covers off; fortunately no one was injured.) Pictured here, all dressed up and nowhere to go, are Eric and Angus from the Grove Street Community house, Samantha, Todd, Adrian and Derek from BOG and staff member Simon Cottingham.



**Swindon (originally Purton) Branch** say that they have a good money-spinner in their coconut shy, which they took to various fetes in May and June. It is shown here in action at the Purton 'Helping Hand' fete in May. In July the branch used their profits to take 18 handicapped people on an outing on the Thames in 'The Battersea'.



Welcome to 15

## New Members

*The following new members were registered during July*

Mrs Lydia Snape (Ashby-de-la-Zouch W)  
Miss Kathleen Allen, Donald Watson (Avon District)  
Mrs Carole A Barber (Beds & North Herts District)  
Edith L Fletcher, Helen Lambert,  
Edelgard Lambert (Berlin Grp)  
Andrew W Golightly (Central)  
Malcolm Lowe (German District)  
Lee Collins, Gary Wood (Glamorgan District)  
Rosemarie A Bainbridge,  
Vanessa A Harriman,  
Hazel Rees (Paderborn Grp)  
Mrs Jose Fulcher,  
Fred Harker (Saltburn J)

## Deaths

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In June H R Pratt Boorman (South East Kent District)

In July Mellion France (Newsome)  
H C Lawrence Harper (Glamorgan District)  
Cuthbert G Hooper (Knowle)  
Kenneth L Jones (Overseas)  
William Horwood (Netherton)  
Harold A Robinson (Barkingside)  
Albert E Tattum (Leigh)  
Arthur R Ward (Springfields District)  
George E Williams (Barkingside)

Not previously recorded

Edith L Dray (Loddon Vale District)  
Joan Webb (South East Regional Branch)

## SPECIAL TRIBUTES

### MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR AUDREY 'PETH' WHITFIELD

Merseyside District is holding a Memorial Service in memory of Peth Whitfield who died in April and was loved by us all. The service will be held on Wednesday 7 October at St Nicholas Parish Church, Liverpool Pierhead at 11.30 am. After the service you are welcome to join us at our monthly lunch club, but, in view of the uncertainty of numbers, please bring your own lunch. A cup of tea will be provided.  
For further details please contact Merseyside District Secretary, Mrs Grace Stephens, tel. 0704 533092.

Oliver Roberts, secretary of Alfreton Branch, died on 19 June aged 71. He joined Riddings Branch in 1945 and transferred to Alfreton in 1949. He played a great part in the raising of funds for a mini bus for a local hospital. He fully and accurately recorded the minutes of branch meetings for over 30 years and was a truly loyal brother in Toc H. JB

Members of Netherton Branch have been saddened by the sudden death of Winnie Ridgeway. She was always thoughtful, considerate and loyal to Toc H. We mourn her passing and will always remember her with affection. ID

London District and Enfield Women's Branch regret to record the sudden death on 4 June of Dorothy Lawrence, a District member and District Members' secretary. Dorothy commenced her association with Toc H at Hendon some 30 years ago and was soon elected as a Central Councillor. She was an insatiable worker, always looking for new ways of getting Toc H on the map, and for several years was the main administrator of the Jimmy Savile dance. She paid several visits to Poperinge and was due to act as assistant warden at Talbot House in September. Dorothy was a great disowner of discouragement and will be greatly missed. DD

Edith Malcolm, of Toc H South Africa, died on 29 June aged 87. Edith was HQ Secretary in Johannesburg for many years and a well-loved friend of many members both in South Africa and here in the UK. JEM

The Revd Percy Sands died on 1 July aged 91. 'Sandy' had been Padre of Leamington Branch and in 1932 was appointed area padre in the East Midlands before going to Western Australia as staff padre. During the war he was chaplain to the Australian Forces and later returned to the UK. He will be remembered by his many friends, both here and in Australia. CS

Barkingside Branch report the death on 10 July of their President and founder member, Harold Robinson. He was one of the few original members of the Movement whose leadership qualities and charisma were second only to Tubby's, who was a great personal friend. As pilot and guide his example was an inspiration to all. Robbie was truly a man that adopted Toc H as a way of life and relied upon the Lord for guidance in any task for others. He will be missed not only in Barkingside but by all who came into contact with him. Thank God for a life that will never die. JC

It is with sadness that Barkingside Branch record the death of their much-loved member, George Williams, who died quietly on 11 July. He was a gentle and keen Toc H member for over 20 years. Although he suffered blindness for the past seven years, he never once complained. His chief interest was the Redbridge Multiple Sclerosis Society, with which Barkingside Branch is very much involved. Thank God for his life and qualities. The spirit lives on. JC

C G Hooper, known to all in Knowle Branch as Bert, died in July. He was a founder member of the branch, had held all offices over the years and was Treasurer when he died. He was very active up to the end, and one of his main interests was the Bristol Hospital Broadcast Society of which he was a founder member. He was a great character and a true Christian, and his passing is a great loss to Toc H Bristol. ET

Arthur Ward, who died recently, was for many years a loyal member of Streatham Branch and, after its closure, regularly attended Springfields District Branch. A convinced Christian, he gave 43 years of service in the Guild of Stewards of Southwark Cathedral. This body of men, wearing their red ribbons and medallions, formed a guard of honour at his funeral - a fitting tribute to a respected and faithful colleague. MR

Kenneth Latimer Jones, OBE, an active member of Toc H for most of his life, died in Sydney, Australia, on 13 July at the age of 97. He was born in Sheffield and spent his youth in Tenby and Swansea where his father was a Congregational minister. In World War I he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and served in France, being invalided out of the army in 1919. Thereafter he had a distinguished career in banking until his retirement in 1953, when he was awarded an OBE in recognition of his service to the community. Virtually his entire leisure time was devoted to voluntary service in numerous organisations, including the British Red Cross, the National Savings movement, hospital management committees and many others. Besides Toc H, he was a member of the RSL, the British Legion and the British Institute of Management. His non-conformist and pacifist upbringing led him to become a Quaker, and he was a much respected member of the Wairoonga Meeting in Australia. He settled there after the death of his wife in 1980, in order to be nearer his son and his son's family. He will be sorely missed by them and by his many friends in Britain and Australia. CPJ

SE Kent District Branch regretfully report the death in June of H R Pratt Boorman, MBE, CBE, aged 91, president and former chairman of the Kent Messenger Group of companies. He died at his home, St Augustine's Priory, Bilsington, near Ashtford. Affectionately known as 'The Guv' nor', he was a friend of 'Tubby' Clayton's, who stayed at Bilsington Priory on occasions, and he remained a member of Toc H to the end of his life. Born in Maidstone and educated at Leys School and Cambridge, Pratt Boorman succeeded his father as proprietor and editor of the Kent Messenger in 1928. He received an MBE in 1945 in recognition of devoted service to the cause of humanity, and the CBE in 1966. Shortly afterwards he was made a Deputy Lieutenant of Kent. He is survived by his widow, Evelyn, a son and daughter and seven grandchildren. TC



## OPEN DAY

at Headquarters in Wendover  
Thursday 24 September

This will be a normal working day. You will be able to see what your staff members do and discuss any issues you may wish to bring up. The Chiltern Hills Branch can provide you with a light lunch at a cost of £1.50, and this should be ordered in advance through Maureen Williams at HQ.

*We look forward to seeing you!*

## World Chain of Light 1992

A World Chain of Light vigil will be held at Cuddesdon House from 6.30 pm on Friday 11 December to 9 pm on Saturday 12 December.

Our theme this year will be 'A Faith To Live By Within The Family'. You are welcome to join us for part or all of the vigil. There will be a creche available and for full details of the programme and costs please apply to:

Alex Fox, Lindridge House, Lindridge Hill, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 3QE

## Would any members be interested in writing to inmates in prison?

As Toc H becomes better known by prison authorities, we sometimes get requests from inmates for people to write to them. If this interests you, please write to me in the first instance at the address below:

Norah Anderson, Webb House,  
7 Zetland Road, Middlesbrough,  
Cleveland TS1 1EH.

## The Beginning of World Chain of Light 1992

This year you are invited to join us at the beautiful Toc H Centre at Port Penrhyn to celebrate the international start of the World Chain of Light. This location, overlooking the Isle of Anglesey and the Menai Strait, with the mountains of Snowdonia nearby, is a wonderful place to come away to for a few days and to reflect quietly with others on Toc H.

You are very welcome to be with us from Friday evening 11 December to Sunday morning 13 December, or any part of that time. We do need to know numbers, so please tell us if you are coming as far in advance as you can. Dormitory accommodation for 34 people is available at the Centre.

You may book a bed through Edna Cowley, Toc H Centre, Port Penrhyn, Bangor, Gwynedd LL32 8RB (Tel: 0248 351906).

Further information is available from Edna or from Timothy Day, 28 Llys Sychnant, Conwy, Gwynedd LL32 8RB (Tel: 0492 593197).

**Headquarters archive collection is missing numbers 10 & 11 in the Topics on Tapes series. Can any members lend us these to copy and return? Please write to Adrian Dudman c/o Headquarters.**

**Christian Singles**, friendship contacts, fellowship groups, social events, nationwide. Weekend houseparties. Holidays.

Christian Fellowship Friendship, Dept 23B,  
Edenthorpe, Doncaster DN3 2QD

## 1993 DIARIES

Slimline design in blue with a ribbon. Contains information about Toc H and regional, national and international Toc H addresses.

Available from Headquarters and on sale at Central Council.

**Price £1 each.**

## People in Groups

a weekend at Cuddesdon, 12-14 March 1993

Right across Toc H, people come together in groups. They meet in Branches, Groups, Friendship Circles, Projects, Cameos, Committees, Councils, Community Houses and so on. We are all very different, but when we come together in groups we often behave in ways that are a bit predictable, and that can sometimes give problems for those trying to lead the group. Those who come on this weekend will be 'the group' for the weekend and, with the help of the leaders, will be trying to spot what is going on in the group.

Applications to the Director, John Mitchell, at Headquarters, with cheque for £10, made payable to Toc H.

## Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 10p a word (minimum £1) plus VAT, to *Point three Magazine*. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

**Hythe, Kent** - homely accommodation in member's home. Bed/breakfast and/or evening meal or full board, very reasonable rates. Enquire Nesta Cock, 7 Tournay Close, Lympne, Hythe, Kent CT12 4LL. Tel: 0303 269407